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**Subject:** Phosphine exposure summary  
**Date:** Monday, January 2, 2017 2:24:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [mmg177.pdf](#)

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Hello All,

I'm going to try to summarize what is known about the multi-exposure, multi-fatality suspected phosphine exposure this morning. Dr. Martin, our medical director, was on duty at the ER when patients began arriving.

I received a call from Cristie Johnston, Tx Panhandle PC Specialist in Poison Information (SPI) at ~0720 that there was a potential poison exposure at a home in Amarillo that had resulted in 1 death at the scene and several other critical patients. Collecting more info from media reports, it appears that someone from the home in Northeast Amarillo called 9-1-1 around 0500 this a.m. (1/2/17) stating that everyone in the home was sick and having difficulty breathing. Carbon monoxide was suspected and units were dispatched to the home. No CO was detected. HAZMAT was dispatched. Ten individuals reside in this home. All, aside from the deceased, were transported to BSA ER. I notified all TPCN managing directors of the incident at 0736.

At some point, it was determined that the father had sprinkled some sort of pesticide pellets under the home. (I have heard differing reports stating that this was done two weeks ago while others state this was done a few days ago.) Chemical is thought to be aluminum phosphide (unconfirmed to my knowledge), which releases phosphine gas when exposed to moisture.

When I was able to speak to Dr. Martin, he said that EMS stated there was a sulfur-like odor at the scene. Two police officers and 7 firemen that were on-scene were evaluated as a precaution. I spoke to Patrick Young with ATSDR and notified him of the incident. Media photos showed fully geared up HAZMAT team on-scene with taped off area. Home appears to be mobile or modular home. Patrick did further checking and found that TCEQ had notified EPA and that Jhana Enders, EPA On Scene Coordinator along with state contractor had been dispatched and that area would be tested. Further media reports are now indicating that a family member had tried to wash the chemical away, perhaps due to strong odor. We do not have confirmation of this or when it might have occurred. Dr. Martin had said that the family reportedly went to the Nwth ER yesterday (1/1/17) with c/o vomiting and abdominal pain and were discharged with flu diagnosis. So, perhaps the chemical reaction creating toxicity occurred sometime yesterday and created on-going exposure overnight.

Four family members are now deceased; to my knowledge – all children. One family member is being transferred to Lubbock for ECMO. I contacted Theresa West, Office of Emergency Management Project Coordinator to ensure that her office was aware of the situation and see if she had contacts with the health department. Patrick advised collecting names of all persons who may have visited the home during exposure period as symptoms may not be seen until 48 hours post exposure. Theresa contacted Chip Orton at EMC, who stated that BSA is collecting contact info. Mr. Orton will make contact with local public health authority. Dr. Martin spoke with a nurse supervisor at BSA regarding selection of a BSA person to serve as a liaison with public HD and federal agencies. I've been told that there is a language barrier with the family. Patrick has suggested sharing any public health messaging in both English and Spanish. He is also letting EPA know to refer public to

poison control if they have questions/ concerns. ATSDR/CDC Medical Management Guideline for Phosphine is being distributed throughout poison network.

Dr. Martin may provide corrections to any of this information if he notices anything incorrect. We have one pending media interview.

Poison center directors, please distribute the attached MMG to your specialists.

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